

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 IO-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06

EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /086 W

----- 004577

R 021658Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9034

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11170

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, PROP, UNESCO, CH, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONTINUING PRC ATTACKS ON SOVIETS; PRIVATE
INQUIRIES ON US POST-VIETNAM POLICY

1. PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY MEMBERS OF PRC PERMANENT DELEGATION TO UNESCO HAVE PURSUED A TOUGH, OFTEN HARSH ANTI-SOVIET LINE IN UNESCO MEETINGS AND IN INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH US DELOFFS. SOVIETS SEEM DISINCLINED TO RESPOND IN KIND TO PUBLIC ATTACKS. MOST RECENTLY CHINESE DELOFF PRESSED US COUNTERPART FOR EXPLANATIONS ON US POST-VIETNAM "WORLD STRATEGY", MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ROC-PRC PROBLEM AND VOLUNTEERED ADMONITION ON SOVIET READINESS TO EXPLOIT US WITHDRAWALS.

2. OTHERWISE UNREMARKABLE DISCUSSIONS ON APRIL 24 BY 20 NATION-MEMBER UNESCO SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF SOVIET AND UK MEMBERS REPORTS ON UNESCO PUBLICATIONS WERE JOLTED BY CHINESE MEMBER'S (DEPUTY PERMREP LI KUANG-TSE) ASSAULT ON SOVIET DELOFF'S REPORT WHICH, INTER ALIA, URGED SERIES OF UNESCO MONOGRAPHS ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II; COMMEMORATION OF WHICH HAS BEEN A
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SARY OF WORLD WAR II; COMMEMORATION OF WHICH HAS BEEN A

MAJOR SOVIET INITIATIVE LAUNCHED AT UNESCO'S GENERAL CONFERENCE DESPITE OPPOSITION OF US AND ALL OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE WARTIME ALLIANCE. LI ACCUSED THE SOVIET (KANAEV) OF "HAWKING FALLACIES OF PEACE IN ASIA, EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE", CHARGED THAT "THIS SUPER POWER PAYS LIP SERVICE TO PEACE" BUT IS ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN "EXPANSION AND AGGRESSION AND PURSUING WORLD HEGEMONY." FURTHER SOVIET ACTIONS ASSERTED TO BE "THE ROOT CAUSE" OF CURRENT WORLD TENSION. SOVIET WWII COMMEMORATIVE PROPOSALS WERE TERMED "QUITE ABSURD" AND THAT SOVIET MOTIVES CANNOT "BEAR THE LIGHT OF DAY".

3. LI SUMMED UP WITH CHARGE THAT SOVIETS SOUGHT "TO BRING UNESCO INTO THEIR POLITICAL ORBIT". KANEV LIMITED REPLY TO STATING LI'S REMARKS "INSPIRED BY HATE AND HOSTILITY" INCOMPATIBLE WITH SPIRIT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD DISCUSSIONS. CHINESE RETORTED THAT SOVIET HAD PERSONALLY INSULTED HIM THEREBY SHOWING "WEAKNESS AND ABSURDITY OF SOCIAL IMPERIALISM ENGAGED IN EXPANSION AND SUBVERSION EVERYWHERE" WHICH "LIES" CANNOT CAMOUFLAGE. SOVIET QUIT WHILE FAR BEHIND.

4. HARSHNESS, AT LEAST BY UNESCO NORMS, OF CHINESE PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF SOVIETS HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY ESSENTIALLY SAME LINE IN INFORMAL CHINESE CONVERSATIONS WITH US DELOFFS.

5. PRC DELOFF (LI CHAO TUNG) BUTTONHOLED US COUNTERPART AT APRIL 22 UNESCO RECEPTION AND ADVANCED "PERSONAL" VIEW DURING 40 MINUTE CONVERSATION THAT SOVIETS WOULD SEEK TO EXPLOIT US "WITHDRAWAL" FROM ASIA THAT "RETREAT" FROM VIETNAM ASSERTEDLY REPRESENTS. INDEED LI ALLEGED SOVIETS WERE PURSUING "EXPANSIONIST" POLICY IN EUROPE AS WELL; SPECIFIC REFERENCE WAS MADE TO EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AS WEAKENING SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO. LI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US ALERT TO SOVIET AGGRESSIVENESS AND SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH PRC'S MAJOR PRIORITY WAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHINESE FEEL COMPELLED TO CONTINUE MAJOR DEFENSE EFFORT.

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6. LI PRESSED DELOFF FOR SPECULATION AS TO HOW VIETNAM "RETREAT" WOULD AFFECT US PRESENCE IN ASIA; PARTICULARLY IN PHILIPPINES, JAPAN AND KOREA. DELOFF REPLIED, AFTER QUALIFYING VIEWS AS PURELY PERSONAL, THAT VIETNAM NOT THE HARBINGER OF GLOBAL AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL BUT OF A MOVE TOWARDS SCALING OUR PRESENCE TO A CHANGED WORLD SITUATION.

7. LI RAISED SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS -- WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS SHOWING "MUCH PROGRESS" -- AND PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO PEKING REPORTED BY PRESS AS PROJECTED FOR THIS FALL. LI IN RESPONSE DELOFF QUESTION SAID

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QUESTION OF PRC-US DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS LIKELY TO BE A TOPIC, THAT TAIWAN THE CENTRAL OBSTACLE AND THAT "EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON AMERICAN ATTITUDE". DELOFF REMARKED THAT JUST AS PRC OF 800 MILLION A REALITY THAT CANNOT BE DISMISSED, THERE ALSO REALITY OF 14 MILLION OR MORE ON TAIWAN. LI RETORTED, WITH A SMILE, THAT US NO LONGER SEEMED CONCERNED ABOUT 40 MILLION VIETNAMESE. HOWEVER LI CONCEDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS AT SOME STAGE WITH "TAIWAN" MIGHT OCCUR.

8. COMMENT: ABOVE REPORTED IN PERHAPS EXCESSIVE DETAIL TO PROVIDE FLAVOR OF REGULAR, INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN DELOFFS AND PRC DELOFFS. UNESCO IS OF COURSE INTERNATIONAL MEETING GROUND WHERE COFFEE-BREAK AND COCKTAIL RECEPTION CONTACTS WITH PRC DELOFFS OCCUR FREQUENTLY BUT INWHICH PARTICIPANTS ON BOTH SIDES

UNDERLINE THE "PERSONAL" AND "UNOFFICIAL" NATURE OF
THEIR VIEWS IN INFREQUENT INSTANCES WHEN SUBSTANTIVE
ISSUES RAISED.

9. PERMDEL HAS NOT TAKEN INITIATIVE TO RAISE ABOVE
TOPICS WITH CHINESE. HOWEVER, AS CHINESE LIKELY TO
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CONTINUE, FROM TIME TO TIME, TO TAKE LOW-KEY SOUNDINGS
WITH PERMDEL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH BACKGROUND
GUIDANCE FOR DELOFF RESPONSES AS DEPT DEEMS APPROPRIATE,
AS WELL AS ANY TOPICS OR SUBJECTS IN WHICH DEPT MAY BE
INTERESTED IN KNOWING CHINESE REACTIONS.
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